United Nations S/2015/334

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, to transmit herewith a press statement adopted on 30 April 2015 by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 503rd meeting as a follow-up to the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council during its 496th meeting, held on 27 March 2015, on the situation in Western Sahara (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you could kindly request the circulation of my letter together with its attachment as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Frederick Musiiwa Makamure **Shava**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Press statement

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 503rd meeting held on 30 April 2015, was briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the follow-up to communiqué PSC/PR/COMM/1 (CDXCVI) on the situation in Western Sahara adopted at its 496th meeting held on 27 March 2015.

Council welcomed the steps taken by the Chairperson of the Commission to follow up on the relevant provisions of the aforementioned communiqué, in particular the letter that she addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General on 30 March 2015, transmitting both the report submitted to the 503rd meeting of Council and the communiqué adopted on that occasion, for the purpose of circulation to the members of the Security Council, and requesting that the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique, brief the Security Council during its April 2015 meeting on this issue.

Council deeply regretted that the Security Council did not agree to the African Union's request that the African Union Special Envoy for Western Sahara address it. Council stressed that this situation does not reflect the spirit of the African Union-United Nations strategic partnership, in particular between the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the United Nations Security Council, which must apply to all peace and security issues on the African continent, including Western Sahara.

Council expressed its firm conviction that the settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara, which has been in a stalemate for more than four decades despite the efforts of the successive Personal Envoys of the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as the effective implementation of Security Council resolutions, requires both an enhanced international engagement and a close partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. Council, taking note of the adoption, on 28 April 2015, of resolution 2218 (2015) on Western Sahara, reiterated the African Union's commitment to continue to work towards the early resolution of the conflict in Western Sahara on the basis of international legality and relevant Organization of African Unity/African Union decisions, and to cooperate closely with the United Nations, to mobilize all the support that the Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General needs in order to carry out his mandate.

Council expressed its deep appreciation to the African members of the Security Council for their efforts to facilitate an interaction between the Security Council and the African Union Special Envoy, and encouraged them to continue to promote the African position on the question of Western Sahara.